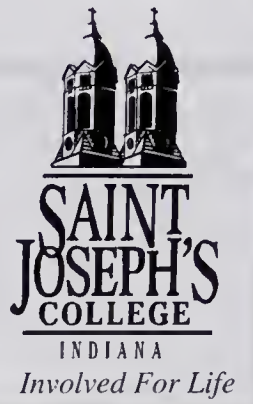


# THE OBSERVER



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Facts and information courtesy of <http://www.bet.com/blackhistorytimeline/>; image courtesy of <http://search.cb.com/blackhistory/timeline.html>.

In honor of the observance of February as Black History Month, *The Observer* has compiled a timeline of several highlights in the struggles African Americans faced and continue to face on their way to recognition and respect.

<b>1526: The Beginning</b>  Spanish explorers bring the first African slaves onto the shores of what would become the United States of America to build a Spanish fortress. Nearly 100 years later, Dutch sailors deliver captured African Americans to the English colony of Jamestown, VA, inaugurating centuries of black enslavement in North America.	<b>1877: The Deal</b>  Fourteen African Americans are elected to Congress and the U.S. Senate in the years after emancipation. But the gains are lost when, in a contested presidential election, Democrats give the White House to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes. In exchange, southern Democrats get to formulate a way of life built around Jim Crow oppression and violence against African Americans - without fear of federal intrusion.	<b>1947: Breaking Barriers</b>  In the spring, "Freedom riders" test segregated seating on interstate buses, and sit-ins challenge bans against African Americans at restaurants and lunch counters. (The same techniques will help win civil rights battles in the 1960s.) Also that spring, Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, a defining moment in the march toward integration in every aspect of American society.	<b>1974: Pride and Prejudice</b>  "Nappy" hair and dark skin are in Vogue, marking a period of self-realization and self-acceptance that began in the late 1960s. In 1974, "Roots" captures the nation's attention and sensitizes a new generation to the story of Africans in America. However, in 1978, the Supreme Court rules against affirmative action in the case of medical student Allan Bakke, signaling a backlash to the previous decades of African American progress.
<b>1857: Less Than Human</b>  The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the notion that African Americans are only three-fifths human and rules in the Dred Scott Decision that they are not U.S. citizens and hold none of the rights thereof. The decision sets as official policy the de-humanization of African Americans and gives legal basis for the oppression to follow.	<b>1879: Up North</b>  The Great Migration begins as thousands of African Americans, trying to escape violence and economic futility, begin a mass exodus from the rural South to the northern and western U.S. The migration continues for generations, assuring the presence of upwardly mobile African Americans throughout the nation and changing the face of U.S. cities.	<b>1954: Battling Many Fronts</b>  The Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education ruling outlaws the "separate but equal" doctrine in public education but it is so vague that segregation continues in some districts for decades. A year later, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, launching a city-wide bus boycott that ends with segregated buses declared illegal. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., gains national attention and the modern Civil Rights Movement launches forward.	<b>1980s: Danger in the City</b>  Crack-cocaine and the easy availability of guns spawn unprecedented violence and crime. The criminal justice system responds with a get-tough stand that leads to the arrest or imprisonment of up to one-third of young African American men. Drugs, violence, and high incarceration rates are considered the biggest threat to the future of African Americans since the Jim Crow era.
<b>1863: Oh, Freedom?</b>  Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation frees slaves in confederate territories but it takes the 13th Amendment in 1865 to fully eradicate the "peculiar institution." In response, southern states pass "Black Codes." These laws dim the light of liberty, segregating and oppressing African Americans as if they were still slaves.	<b>1905: Getting Organized</b>  One of the most prominent African Americans, Booker T. Washington, preaches that the road to racial harmony for the African American population is through cleanliness and hard work rather than justice and equality. W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter gather with others in Niagara Falls to oppose Washington's policies, laying the foundation for aggressive political action by what would become the NAACP.	<b>1964: "Acts" of Freedom</b>  The 24th amendment outlaws the poll tax, making it easier for African Americans in the South to cast their votes. Lyndon Johnson signs into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, banning discrimination in jobs and public accommodations and opening up new opportunities to millions of African Americans.	<b>1995-2000: Millions March</b>  An estimated one million African American men and boys gather in Washington, D.C., to fight for the betterment of the African American community. Their unprecedented public display changes the way - if only briefly - the world views African American men. A year later, African American women march in Philadelphia and rededicate themselves to the cause. In 2000, the Million Family March brings the entire community together.



<b>NEWS</b>  SPREY TRAVELS TO INDONESIA  CUTEST COUPLE CONTEST WINNERS	<b>FEATURES</b>  SUB EVENTS OF "I HATE WINTER WEEK"  BROADWAY REVIEW: "ANYTHING GOES"	<b>SPORTS</b>  BASEBALL/SOFTBALL REFLECTIONS  NEW ADDITION TO MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM	<b>OPINION</b>  LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  ET CETERA PUMA POETRY
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## Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

I was first inspired to write this letter several months ago. However, every week it seemed to slip down to the bottom of my To Do list and never really got done. But, like most things worth saying, the idea didn't go away, and so I figured that the least I could do is to spend twenty minutes on a Sunday afternoon writing about something that I feel is important.

Last semester, I had the responsibility of working in the Writing Clinic on Tuesday afternoons. For those of you who don't know, the Writing Clinic is located upstairs in the Core building – mixed right in with all the faculty offices. The thing that I noticed while working up there is that our faculty deserves recognition for their availability to us as students. Not

only are they available, but they are involved, interested, and supportive.

I think it is important to realize and remember that here at SJC, we not only know where our professor's offices are, but that we actually feel comfortable visiting those offices if and when the need arises. However, one of the things that I noticed while I sat in the Writing Clinic was that most students were not coming solely to ask their professors about the paper assigned last week or to check on their grades. Many students were stopping by simply to say hello or to chat about the week's events. Our faculty truly does have an open-door policy, and that policy seems to extend into our daily interaction with our professors. Think of how often you see professors eating with students in

the caf, how many times you've seen faculty at athletic events, how many casual conversations you've had with your professors as you pass in the hallway.

I guess I just wanted to extend a thank you to the SJC faculty for really exemplifying the ideals of SJC. Because we are a small school, we have the opportunity to form real and lasting relationships on every level. I have been very fortunate to have this experience – and as I watched from my desk in the Writing Clinic, I realized that my experience was not unique. We are very blessed to be taught by a very special group of people – and we are lucky to know them...both in and out of the classroom.

– Annie Domasica, senior

Dear Editor,

Seniors: it is almost time. In less than three months, we will convert from college students to Puma alumni. Being a college graduate certainly carries tremendous responsibilities, but there is no doubt that Saint Joseph's College has given us the tools to compete in the world and accomplish some great things. Recently, I was given the chance to reflect on what it means to be a Puma alumnus, and I want to share those reflections with you. But more importantly, I want to hear what you have to say, as well. Write the editor and tell your fellow Pumas what it means to become an alumnus.

Participating in a strong Catholic tradition which embraces Christian humanism, I have been formed into a missionary by the descendants of Saint Gaspar de Bufalo, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Attending this Catholic institution, I have been able to better understand the centrality of church and faith in the lives of those who follow Jesus. During my sophomore year, one Precious Blood priest shared some insight with me, saying, "In a sense, what we're doing here is trying to form missionaries to go out into whatever type of career that the

student gets into...this is something that would be important to Saint Gaspar." As an alumnus of the College, I welcome my role as a missionary with enthusiasm and commitment.

Graduating from this institution means that I am a product of a quality education, which enlightens the whole person through the unique integration of academic disciplines in the Core Curriculum. In our terror-ridden contemporary situation, it is easy to recognize the supreme importance of an intercultural education in the liberal arts. I came to Saint Joseph's College like many others, with religious biases and a permeating Western ethnocentrism. But when students take the Core Program to heart, they leave this College with changed hearts. I assert that being an alumnus of this institution means that one embraces a renewed awareness and understanding for those who are different. Puma alumni enter the world equipped to challenge injustices and bring about positive change.

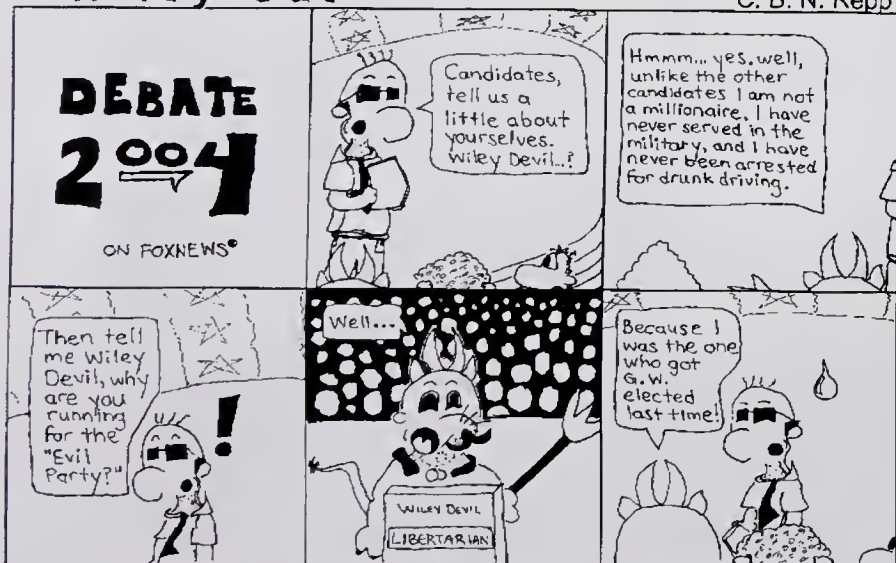
Finally, and most importantly, as an alumnus of Saint Joseph's College, I recognize that I am part of a larger family of individuals, inclusive to students, parents, professors, and other alumni,

who live the principles of Christian humanism in everyday life. When I reflect on my experiences at the College, I remember the countless individuals who have freely given their time and attention to my well-being. This includes my fellow students, who have demonstrated how to achieve career goals, the importance of investing into community service, and the tremendous pride and spirit that comes along with being a Puma. Saint Joseph's College is truly a home, where professors invest unbelievable amounts of time into their students, inspiring them to have successful careers, and even more significantly, to be good people. Finally, the Puma alumni whom I have encountered have demonstrated the principles of Christian humanism. One of these individuals is Dr. Eric Boos, who is currently a Fulbright Scholar in Morogoro, Tanzania. Eric has been available to talk on the phone or answer emails whenever I look for advice or inspiration. As a Puma alumnus, I want to return the same effort to Saint Joseph's College and the larger community. What does it mean to be a Puma alumnus? I am interested to hear what you have to say.

– Luke Hansen, senior

### Wiley Cat

C. B. N. Repp



### Ash Wednesday observances:

#### East Oratory:

6:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

#### Chapel:

12:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

### PAWS:

...to all the contestants of The Observer's annual Cutest Couple Contest. Congratulations to the winners!



### CLAWS:

...to all the people who forgot to wish their friends or significant others a happy Valentine's Day last week.

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Photos from Sprey's trip to Indonesia. Left: the Buddhist complex of Borobodur; right: the students from UGM's American Studies program with which Sprey celebrated Thanksgiving.



Photos courtesy of Ilicia Sprey

## SJC Professor Travels to Indonesia as Scholar-in-Residence

By Becky Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Intern

Thanks to an opportunity offered by a colleague from the University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, SJC Assistant Professor of History Dr. Ilicia Sprey spent December 2003 as a scholar-in-residence in Indonesia to present a series of public lectures to university students and faculty.

As not only a woman but also a professional and an academic, the audiences at UGM were happy to receive Sprey and her expertise. Presenting lectures on global feminism, the historical perspective on women, U.S. feminism of the past and present and the comparative context of women, society and religion, Sprey was among the minority of women at UGM with both master's and doctorate degrees. "In Indonesian culture, marriage and family come first," she said. "Women are expected to create their familial niches before making careers for themselves, and so it becomes harder for them to go back to school to earn their degrees. It takes

them a lot longer to achieve doctorates because of this."

In addition to her work as a lecturer, Sprey also offered her services as a critic by commenting on the master's theses of various students in the American Studies program. Students presented her with their defenses while she provided them with suggestions for change or room for improvement.

Widening her facets of Asian knowledge, Sprey traveled to the island of Sumatra and visited several Hindu temple sites, the national museum, the archaeological sites of the Buddhist complex of Borobodur, and the sacred Mount Merapi. "Borobodur and Mount Merapi are ... visually moving. They are both incredibly spiritual sites," she said.

However, out of all the experiences she had, Sprey most enjoyed assisting students in the American Studies program to experience the American holiday of Thanksgiving. "The students had always wanted to celebrate

the American tradition of Thanksgiving as a secular holiday," she said.

Twenty-five students, along with the program director, Sprey and numerous honored guests, shared kitchen duties and helped to prepare a feast of an 18-pound turkey and students' own versions of sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, apple pie, and sweet potato pie. "The bird was flown in from Australia," Sprey said, "because in Indonesia turkeys are often kept as family pets." The 35-person celebration ended with the singing of Christmas carols that were learned in the university's English language classes and well-known American songs by such artists as The Beatles.

Having traveled in the past to such countries as Vietnam and Bangladesh, this trip more so than her others will give Sprey new material for her history and Core classes at SJC. With valuable photos to implement in lectures on the history and heritage of

Asia, she captured the Asian countryside, cities, monuments, and markets to aid her students in their understanding of the foreign culture. "I took photos and bought souvenirs with my eye on the interests of my students," she said.

Sprey was pleased to work with her colleagues at UGM and throughout the country and commented that she truly felt like a member of the community. "The people at the university were very friendly and curious about American customs. There was no anti-Americanism, and I couldn't have asked to be treated with more care or respect," she said. "By its support of this trip, Saint Joseph's College gave me a wonderful opportunity to share my knowledge and myself with the Indonesian students and bring back new materials to use in my classes. It also allowed the Indonesian graduate students and me a chance to move beyond the media images and actually get to learn about each other's cultures."

## CUTEST COUPLE CONTEST WINNERS!

*The Observer sponsored its annual Cutest Couple Contest the week before Valentine's Day. All students, faculty, and staff were invited to vote for the cutest student couple and the cutest faculty couple from a group of nominees. The winning couple in the student category was Thomas Kennedy and Ambre Marr. The award for favorite faculty sweethearts went to Dr. Tom and Beth Ryan. Read on for some sweet tidbits on the winning pairs!*

### Ambre and Thomas:

Ambre and Thomas have been together for one and a half years, and actually met in their freshmen seminar group, right here at SJC. Over this past winter break, Thomas asked Ambre to marry him, and she accepted, of course. "He took me to the nicest restaurant. After we had finished our dinner, the waiter came by and told me that he had a special dessert for us," remembers Ambre. "I turned to Tom and said, 'Maybe it is because it is our first time here!' As the waiter came walking toward our table, he was carrying a silver platter surrounded by strawberries cut into the shape of Christmas trees. There were mint leaves in the middle of the platter and a box sat on top. The waiter set the platter on

the table and all I could do was cover my mouth. Thomas said, 'Aren't you going to open it?' I opened the box and that was when Tom asked me to spend the rest of my life with him."

### Beth and Tom Ryan:

The Ryans met through Beth's sister on October 15, 1980. They were married less than one year later, on August 2, 1981, and have been together ever since, for over 22 years. Their connection was practically instantaneous. Beth remembers how quickly Dr. Ryan professed his love to her. "On October 18, 1980, three days after we met - during his morning exercise routine - Dr. Ryan rode his bike three miles to my apartment at 5:00 in the morning to tell me he loved me. It was a very sweet moment in my memory and the rest is history."



Top left: Marr and Kennedy, Bottom right: Tom and Beth Ryan

Photos courtesy of Marr, Ryan



**Congratulations to all the contestants, and thanks for your participation!**





# Musical Review: Anything Goes

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

A cruise ship filled with colorful passengers, including Wall Street moguls, debutantes, escaped convicts, noblemen and a former nightclub singer turned evangelist - accompanied by her own group of guardian angels - will dock at Saint Joseph's College Theater on April 1 because Cole Porter's musical, *Anything Goes*, will be performed by the Columbian Players.

To be honest, I have never been a huge Cole Porter fan, but I decided to give this musical a chance. I was going to wait, but I couldn't help myself! I wanted to know what this musical was all about! I borrowed the CD from a friend who's also a big fan of musicals, and he told me I'd enjoy it. Boy, was he right! *Anything Goes* rocks!

The 1987 Broadway revival of *Anything Goes* was a fabulous success, starring the unique Patti LuPone along with an excellent supporting cast. Howard McGillin (*The Phantom of the Opera*'s longest-serving Broadway 'Phantom') lends his resonant voice and boyish good looks to the character of Billy Crocker, with a supporting cast led by Linda H (*Gypsy, Hairspray*) as the flirty Erma. LuPone (*Les Miserable, Sunset Boulevard*) is ideally cast as the singing chaunteuse-turned evangelist Reno Sweeney, belting out the Cole Porter standards "Anything Goes," "I Get a Kick Out of You," and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" in her own formidable style.

Along with *Kiss Me, Kate*, 1934's *Anything Goes* is usually thought to be Cole Porter's finest show. All musical-theatre lovers should have *Anything Goes* in their collection, and this recording is quite a worthy one. After listening to this CD, I can hardly wait for the SJC musical!

If you are interested in writing for the Features section email Natalie Lapacek: nli4438@saintjoe.edu

# Movie Review: Tremors

By Joe Larson, Staff Writer

There are two types of people in this world: people who have seen any of the *Tremors* movies, and people who have not sustained serious brain damage. Thanks to that time a cement truck ran over my head, I felt qualified to review *Tremors IV: The Legend Begins*.

This is my attempt to summarize *Tremors I* through *III*. In *Tremors*, giant worm-things terrorize an isolated Nevada town, which is aptly named Perfection. In *Tremors II: Aftershocks*, the worm-things give birth to two-legged creatures that terrorize an isolated Mexican outpost. The outpost is not named "Perfection" because it is made with inferior foreign labor. In *Tremors III: Back to Perfection*, the two-legged things evolve into two-legged things that fly by shooting flames out of their butts. The creatures return to the US to terrorize Perfection because not even monsters can resist the lure of crossing the border to find better lives in America. *Tremors IV: The Legend Begins* is set in 1889 and serves as a prequel. It is about how the original creatures begin to terrorize the same Nevada town, proving once and for all that the only things to do in Nevada are gamble and be eaten by worms.

The entire *Tremors* series is based on a B-movie concept. *Tremors*, the only film of the series to be released in theaters, received mostly positive reviews. The movie is a compelling mix of adventure, horror, and comedy that doesn't take itself too seriously. *Tremors IV* falls well short of this goal. I suspect that the planning of the movie went something like this: Person 1: "I've got forty-five dollars in my pocket and a se-

vere case of mental damage. Want to make a movie?" Person 2: "Not really." And so *Tremors IV* was born.

Because it is difficult to hire many actors for fewer than fifty dollars, the acting is expectedly terrible. The only real actor is Michael Gross, who you may remember from *Family Ties*. True to his family-values roots, Gross plays Burt Gummer, an eccentric gun-enthusiast whose gung-ho "let's kill everything" attitude raises the first three *Tremors* movies to an almost artistic level. In *Tremors IV*, however, Gross loses the guns and picks up a terrible fake accent to play Hylan Gummer, an east-coast mine owner who is the pathetic ancestor of the heroic Burt. If Burt ever met Hylan, Burt would definitely shoot him in the face.

*Tremors IV* lacks the sense of urgency that was present in the previous three movies. The characters mill around for days at a time, seemingly forgetting what they're trying to do. The worm-things, which are technically called graboids, are content to wait until the humans are good and ready to kill them. The special effects are also sub-par, proving once again that the producer spent the movie's entire forty-five-dollar budget on late fees at Video Stop (I'm just a little bitter).

Although this individual movie is bad, the concept continues to thrive. *Tremors* is now a TV series on the Sci-Fi Channel starring Gross as Burt Gummer. The quality of *Tremors IV* might be fitting for TV, but not for a movie - even a movie released directly to video.

# SUB Event: "What Would You Do for a Dollar?"

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Saint Joseph's College "I Hate Winter Week," SUB planned and sponsored "What Would You Do For a Dollar?" in the cafeteria during dinner hours. I honestly cannot tell you how this activity in any way, shape, or form had anything to do with hating winter and attempting to cope with it; I certainly did not walk away from dinner feeling any less disgusted with the snow and ice covering the ground outside. However, "What Would You Do For a Dollar?" did prove to be an entertaining, albeit distracting, experience by which to dine.

While students were going about their normal dining activities, SUB members went around the cafeteria randomly asking people to do things for McDonald's certificates, worth one dollar apiece. The activity they were asked to do determined the amount of money with which they walked away.

The activities students were asked to do were fun, harmless, and rather amusing. Senior Lance Crow juggled three oranges while humming circus music. Sophomore Heather Mikus stood on a chair and sang "I'm A Little Teapot," and freshman Christina McConnell acted like a chicken, flapping her arms like wings. Sophomore Amy Luksus received three dollars for walking on the chairs around the table and then doing a quick dance upon the table itself.

Overall, this SUB event provided some quick laughs and mild amusement and entertainment for those who chose to go to dinner that evening. While it was not an activity that impressed me to the point where I would ask SUB to bring it back, it did make for an interesting change of pace from the everyday dinner in the caf experience.

# Styling Sense Shoe de Jour



Jen Zak  
Columnist

In the 1980's when most of us were born, Punky Brewster strutted her stuff in splatter paint high-tops and rolled her multi-colored socks down in an effort to look, well, Punky. The Molly Ringwald wannabes had a thing for multi-colored pumps with ankle socks, which we thought was rad as well. Then we hit the early 1990's, a decade of neon and Birkenstocks, and I think it's safe to say that nothing more than Marky Mark came out with a saved reputation.

Today, there doesn't seem to be as much of a shoe de jour obsession, unless you watch "Sex and the City" and have been pinching pennies for Manolo Blahniks. However, there are ways to *prevent* doing a time warp back to our generations' previous fashion mistakes. One, never ever wear brown shoes with black pants or vice versa. Two, white socks with black shoes does not look good on anyone, except Michael Jackson. And finally, sandals with socks...do I even need to explain this one?

I will admit that I have committed the sin on occasion of sacrificing comfort for appearance, but trust me when I say that it is definitely a detriment to yourself and your body by wobbling around in too high or too tight shoes for an entire evening. Try wearing a platform heel if you know you will be standing or dancing for long periods of time, that way all the pressure won't be on your heel or toes. If you want to dress up a casual outfit, wear a heeled boot with jeans or a heeled sandal in the summertime.

Perhaps being meticulous about footwear is something not to be valued, but being put together from head to toe can solidify your style and your outfit, regardless of the occasion. Let your shoes express your personality, and, if splatter paint high-tops are your thing, by all means go for it - just leave the rolled sock fad behind.



## Book Review: The Idiot Girls' Action Adventure Club

By Natalie Lapacek, Features Editor

*The Idiot Girls' Action Adventure Club* is a hilarious account of columnist Laurie Notaro's life. This book tells of the crazy happenings in Notaro's life, ranging from childhood memories to the hilarious mishaps of her adult life. The book came out of the autobiographical articles that Notaro has been writing for a Phoenix newspaper; the stories are all collected from ten years of being a humor columnist. Notaro tells the raw truth of her life, no matter how foolish she makes herself out to be; it is Notaro's wit, modesty, and masterful storytelling that make these "True Tales from a Magnificent and Clumsy Life" one of the New York Times Bestsellers.

The 221 pages of *Idiot Girls'* are made up of 39 different anecdotes, each one strikingly funny and new. All the stories address Notaro's insecurities, fears, and family problems with lightheartedness, showing that to get by in life, we all need a sense of humor. In one story, "Survival of the Fittest-Well, Kind of," she tells of how her mother was hassling her to get a job after graduating college. Her mother begins comparing her to her sister; in response Notaro writes, "Then I suddenly remembered that, unlike myself, my sister possessed qualities of responsibility, ambition, and survival instincts, whereas my survival instincts consisted solely of lighting an entire pack of cigarettes end to end because I only had one match." As you can see, Notaro pokes fun at herself, but she won't strike the reader as a woman who hates herself. This is apparent in "Men are Stupid and I Rock (Ode to Dorothy Parker)" in which she tells of her insecurities with guys, but ends up getting even with a guy who stood her up by standing him up for a date; she and her friend watch him wait for her and get a great kick out of it.

The whole tone of this novel is sarcastic and witty, which will make you laugh out loud while reading it. She throws in comments that make this a very fun, enjoyable read. However, it is obvious that the humor is directed toward a female audience. For instance, one of the most hilarious anecdotes, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," is about ugly friends versus pretty friends. Notaro describes the bond between ugly girlfriends as such: "[We are] at the Ugly Girls' Clubhouse, of course, where we watch endless epi-

sodes of *The Golden Girls*, eat troughs of cheesecake, and then try on girdles." Any female reader who has ever been self-conscious or gotten themselves in some troublesome situations will appreciate Notaro's humor.

Throughout the drunkenness and irresponsibility displayed by Notaro and her capers, the reader can see a person who is compassionate and stresses the importance of friendships. Most of her stories are about times she has shared with her friends and how they have all helped each other out, like in "Wrap and Roll and the Disappearance of Nikki's Keys" in which Notaro helps her friend Nikki to find her missing keys, and leads to having to dig through a nasty garbage bag. The close friendship between the two is obvious; there is banter between them, but it is all in good humor. Another story that displays Notaro's close friendships is "The Idiot Girls' Action-Adventure Club and the Art of Being Dumb," from which spawned the odd title of the book. In this piece, Notaro tells of the "dumb" things she has done, like hitting on a cross-dresser, believing it was a man, and how she left all her junk mail in her mailbox for four weeks, hoping the post man would stop bringing her junk mail - instead, he stopped delivering to her house altogether. Notaro's compassion is shown especially in "Amy's Mom, the Fairy, and Hedge Clippers"; in this story, Notaro tells about some young girls who used to live next to her. The girls were part of a stereotypical white trash dysfunctional family, and Notaro, having pity on them, would take them in and give them food, even if she was a bit annoyed by them. Of course, Notaro puts in the comedy by telling how the girls kept stopping by, screaming "LAAAAAY-DEEEEEEE! LAAAAAY-DEEEEEEE!" in an "evil chorus."

This book is a delightfully fun read. It is difficult to write comedy, but Notaro does it remarkably. After you read this book, you'll be dying to know more about Laurie Notaro. She recently had a new book published called *Autobiography of a Fat Bride: True Tales of a Pretend Adulthood*, which, no doubt, is filled with more hilarious anecdotes from Notaro's life.

## Stuff



Brian Bugajski  
Columnist

Did you know that the place we refer to as Merlinville was once the site of an orphanage? Or that the original building's name was not Merlini Hall? After reading this issue's *Stuff*, you will know the answers to these and many other questions about the unique men's dormitory located across from the Science Building.

Merlini Hall was built as part of a construction boom that took place in 1940 that included Seifert Hall, the Fieldhouse, and Xavier Hall. Merlini is the second oldest hall in use on campus (Seifert is the oldest by less than a year), but it has not always been known by its current name. The *Centennial Pictorial History of Saint Joseph's College* states that, "Merlini Hall, completed in 1940, was originally called Noll Hall in memory of the current bishop of Fort Wayne, Archbishop John Francis Noll, founder of Our Sunday Visitor Press." The name was changed in 1955 to Merlini Hall in honor of Venerable John Merlini, the third Moderator General of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in Rome and the name of Noll Hall was applied to one of two new halls that were built that year. "Merlini never set foot in America, but his name was applied because he is, next to St. Gaspar del Bufalo, regarded as the most revered member of the Society," declares Fr. Dominic Gerlach C.P.P.S., college historian and author of the *Centennial Pictorial History of Saint Joseph's College*.

An orphanage at one time occupied the site where Merlini stands today. The orphanage that was built in the 1850's was originally the residence of George Spitler, the owner of the 933-acre farm that would become Saint Joseph's Orphan Asylum and Manual Training School in 1868. Some years later the Orphan Asylum closed and the building served as a place to house the brothers of the school and then eventually the hired laymen of the college. When the building was torn down, to make way for construction of the new hall, the workmen moved to the rooms located on the second floor of the powerhouse.

Merlini Hall was erected for the mere price tag of \$35,000. The hall originally housed 80 students, bringing the total student body to 600 students. Sixty of the 80 students housed in Merlini lived in the traditional dorm style for that time, a study hall on the first floor and an open second floor full of beds. The remaining 20 students were lucky enough to have private rooms for the extra fee of \$25 in the west wing of the building.

Unfortunately for the residents of Merlini, living costs have increased over the years, but the physical attributes of the hall have not. Merlini is currently one of three dorms on campus that have no air conditioning and sub-par furniture, but the Men of Merlini do not let that bring their spirits down. Junior Adam Mandon, a former two-year Merlini resident states, "Merlini is similar to a fraternity. It is small enough that everyone knows each other. The camaraderie between the guys is great." Anyone who has walked through the halls of Merlini can attest that the guys there have a unique relationship. Merlini Hall will continue to change over the years, but hopefully the dorm's frat-spirit will endure.

## SUB's Card Night

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

On February 9th, during "I Hate Winter Week," the Student Union Board hosted a Card Night for the pleasant constituency of SJC. Faculty and students were represented for a night of euchre, poker, and everything in between in the Halleck Ballroom. Indeed, the evening, though founded on the seemingly simple idea of "if you play it, they will come," turned out to be a moderate success-- at least, more successful than I had intended it to be.

Though there were several tables for different games, poker took definite precedence over all of them. Dr. Bill Mottolese and his motley crew tore through hand after hand of exhilarating games (of which types I don't recall-- perhaps because I didn't ask).

Since I have a bad poker face, I

decided to sit at the euchre table in the grand Hoosier tradition. Though my partner and I had to search out for another random group to play with us, the game still proved to be a rather relaxing experience. I have to admit, though, that I was not much in the mood for playing cards, and so I was understandably bored throughout that particular portion of the evening.

The other tables, featuring such games as Egyptian Rat Screw and Texas Hold-Em (neither of which I have ever heard of and, consequently, am entirely ignorant as to how to play), were somewhat ignored, but I don't think it mattered much to the people who were there.

When all is said and done, I suppose you just need to have a little patience and shuffle the cards.

## Quick CD Review

### Eve 6: It's All in Your Head

Anyone who has been a dedicated Eve 6 fan is probably ecstatic about their newest CD, "It's All in Your Head." Eve 6's third album stays true to the band's mellow rock style; songs like "At Least I'm Dreaming" and "Without You Here" will bring you back to the glory days of their first album. Unless you've kept track of Eve 6, you may not have heard about this newest CD, which is something else I find admirable about this band. The band's intense lyrics and lack of show on MTV and the radio indicates that they are more concerned with the self-expression of music rather than setting trends. If you'd like to check up on this band and listen to some mp3s, check out their website: [www.eve6.com](http://www.eve6.com).

By Natalie Lapacek, Features Editor



# Derek Fey: A Welcomed New Puma for the Men's Basketball Team

**Favorites:**  
**Food:** Steak  
**Book:** "Caterpillar"  
**Sport:** Basketball  
**Movie:** Braveheart  
**Singer:** Gary Allen

Anna Westwood  
 Reporter

Work hard. Play hard. When sophomore transfer Derek Fey steps out on the court to practice or play, he means business. Fey transferred to SJC from Ashland University. The 21-year-old Ohio native finished one year at Ashland. He took a year and a half off and decided to give the Pumas a try.

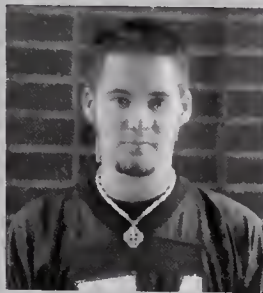
The head coach of the men's basketball team, Linc Darner, was for-

merly an assistant coach at Ashland University. He met Fey long before he joined the SJC squad. After talking with Coach Darner and visiting campus, Fey signed on as a Puma.

Fey is enjoying his time here. He likes his coaches, teammates, and friends. He loves the closeness of the team; they are friends both on and off the court. Fey feels like his team his doing "okay" but should be doing better. Like his feelings on the team as a whole, Fey feels his performances "can always be better." When asked if he feels like he ever plays well, he responded, "No, I never think I play well." According to the team statistics, that seems to be anything but true. He has already earned a starting spot and is one of the leading scorers on the team.

Fey hopes the team can continue winning and moving up in the conference standings. With his hardworking, sometimes perfectionist attitude, it is obvious that Fey will do what it takes to win and bring success to Puma basketball.

## Adam Mandon Speaks: On the Yankees



I am sure you have heard by now—the New York Yankees have done it again. Alex Rodriguez, the best player of the millennium, will join Derek Jeter who has arguably been the second best shortstop since Cal Ripken Junior (ironically finishing behind A-Rod). The Yankees have gone to the local supermarket and just casually picked up the best shortstop in the history of baseball. Baseball's best player will be penciled in as the third basemen on manager Joe Torre's line-up card with names like Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield, Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada and Hideki Matsui. This is an unimaginable lineup. Although many think this trade is bad for baseball, it really is good. It will continue to prove to those small market teams that they can compete, because the Yankees will fall short in October once again. It will prove to baseball's fans and the world that one, three, or, in the Yankees' case, nine star players cannot win a championship alone. It takes 25 players.

Mike Mussina is the only proven starter on this team. The losses of Southpaws David Wells and Andy Pettitte

should not go unnoticed. These are huge losses for a team that has no left-handed starters. Javier Vazquez is a diamond in the rough waiting to shine in the hot spotlight of New York (though some think he may melt in a savage media market), but injury-prone starters Jon Lieber and Kevin Brown should concern the Pinstripe People. The bullpen does not intimidate me, either. Tom Gordon is one pitch away from tearing his arm off, Jose Contreras (also a spot-starter) has never really panned out, and Mariano Rivera keeps getting a year older. You have to wonder when his age will finally show. He is listed as being 34 years old, but many think he is much older.

Ironically, the Yankees of the mid-90's proved to the baseball world homeruns do not win championships. Team speed, defense, and pitching win postseason games. The Yankees offense will explode this season, and it should be good enough to win over 100 games again. But this is a team built for the regular season and to win a division. The Yankees only options to swipe a base are the aging Kenny Lofton and Derek Jeter. New York will live and die by the homerun, something that has doomed many teams in the past ten years (see the Chicago White Sox). The station-to-station offense generation died before it really started. The pitching will fall apart by September, Joe Torre will be fired, and again we will all smile when the Yankees lose the World Series to a team like the Arizona Diamondbacks or the Florida Marlins.

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# Season Reflections So Far

## Softball

Casey Wagner  
Reporter

Our Lady Puma softball players are off and running! The upperclassmen returned with a spark and the freshmen have already proved to be a powerful group. The team has been working harder than ever and they feel it is going to show once the season comes around. So far they are performing well and are more than dedicated to softball, each other, and their school work. They are ranked eighth in conference, but the team feels this is an understatement with all the talent they possess. The ladies admit to having a few rough spots so far, but as a team they have been able to work through them.

Pitcher Jen Willig, junior, commented on the strength of the team, saying, "I have been involved on many different teams, from volleyball, to track, to basketball, to cheerleading, to soccer, and in softball, but I have never ever been on a team that is as close as we are. I can call every girl on the team my friend."

Puma outfielder Katherine Caruso, added, "As a whole we are a very talented team. The freshmen fell in the groove well, especially after our

fall season."

The Lady Pumas feel that the freshmen offer a great deal of talent and have been extremely dedicated. Willig commented, "The freshmen that were brought in are amazing! They have the will and the want to win and work hard."

A few key freshmen, Kerrie Schludecker and Shelly Hammons, bring a defensive and offensive edge to the team. These two were able to really step up, but as Caruso put it, "The other freshmen have made great strides already into developing themselves further as great softball players."

As far as the coaching staff goes, both Willig and Caruso were impressed. The coaches have the same goals as the players which is key to a successful season. Willig was also impressed with the pitching coach, who played at Lewis a few years ago. Willig gives credit to her for the improvements her game has seen just since January.

After asking these talented ladies their goals for the season, the overwhelming response includes winning the GLVC tournament and seeing several of the players make all-conference. The ladies also have personal goals that include taking care of their health and their schoolwork, and hopefully being able to impress a few professors this semester!



Some members of the softball team pose for a picture at last Saturday's basketball game  
Photo courtesy of Bridget Newman

### A Great Sports Quote

"You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possibly be - in baseball and in life."

--Pete Rose

## Baseball

Puma Pitcher Mike  
Stawski comments:

What are your goals for the coming season?

"As a team, we are always looking to compete. We know that we can beat any team out there if we play up to our ability. Every year we talk about championships and it is a realistic goal. However, there are many small goals we look to achieve before we look at the big picture. Our first goal is to go out our first weekend and get that first win. Every team likes starting off on the right foot so that is what we want to do. Obviously, we have goals set: to win conference and advance to the regionals. Our ultimate goal is to get to Alabama (where they hold the World Series) and win the World Series."

"A personal goal of mine is to come back healthy and compete. I was hurt last year and was out the whole season so I have not seen live hitters for a year and a half now. I want to help this team to achieve our goals and be a force in this conference."

What are you hoping to improve on from last season?

"I believe we have already made many improvements from last year. Our team chemistry is better than I have ever seen it and we have had a pretty good spring training thus far. Everyone is on the same page and I believe that is some-

thing we have improved on from last year. Our hitting is going to be tremendous. We have some good players like Michael Victor, Luke Barrett, Scott Smolek, and Garrett Guest who will really contribute in this department. Our pitching has always been solid, being nationally ranked for many years now. We have a good core of guys that will be pitching for us and as long as we stay healthy we will be able to compete with anyone in the country."

Who do you expect to be the team's toughest competition?

"In our conference there is usually never one total dominating team. When we step out on that field this year and we look over at the other dugout we are going to be able to say every time that we are better. Of course we are going to have some tough opponents, the GLVC is a great conference. However, there is no one out there that is hands down better as a team than we are."

How are the freshmen doing?

"The freshmen are working very hard. They are learning the system and getting used to college baseball. We expect some freshmen to step up and play a major role in the pitching staff this year. Garrett Weijak and Jared Wynn are two guys that we expect can help our team from the pitching aspect tremendously."

## Upcoming Games & Matches

### Basketball

It is the final home weekend of the season for the basketball teams. They first host Northern Kentucky on Thursday. Women tip off at 6 p.m. and men tip off at 8 p.m. Saturday's Senior Day games are against Bellarmine. The women's game begins at 1 p.m., with the men's game at 3 p.m.

### Track & Field

The track and field teams compete in the Chicagoland Indoor Championships at Lewis University. The women compete on first, with events beginning on Friday at 4:30 p.m. The men compete Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m.

### Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team is at home on Saturday, hosting Rose-Hulman at 9 a.m. and Anderson at 5 p.m.

Are you interested in writing for the sports page either this semester or next year? Contact Sports Editor Bridget Newman at [bnh3998@saintjoe.edu](mailto:bnh3998@saintjoe.edu)!



Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Everything seems to be piling up around you at once, and you are finding yourself very overwhelmed by all of the work you have accumulated. Your best bet is to begin now with some of your more difficult tasks, and if you stick to it, you will slowly but surely get all of your work finished on time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Have you been feeling that you are in a rut or craving some type of change in your life? You may find the most satisfaction from a more physical change, so try getting a haircut or shopping for a new wardrobe. These more temporary changes will prove to be more fulfilling in the long run.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Something that has been on your mind recently is preventing you from concentrating on school and those activities which you normally hold as high priorities. Take a step back and think about what is more important, the issue that has been bothering you or school. After this, you will feel 100% better.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Instead of becoming fussy when things don't go exactly how you planned, try to adopt a more carefree and laid back attitude. Your usual desire to control everything around you is very likely to get you into trouble in the very near future, so sit back and go with the flow for the time being.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Be careful not to take the things others say to you too seriously, as you are very likely to be offended by something a close friend says very soon. Remember how much you value this person's friendship and keep in mind that he/she is not trying to intentionally hurt you, and you will soon get over this incident.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are feeling very creative right now, and this may be an unusual desire for you to exhibit considering your usual personality. Take advantage of this new interest, and you may find that your creative personality has been waiting to emerge for a long time. This is an excellent opportunity, so seize it!

Libra (September 23-October 23)

You have been so busy lately that you have often neglected many important details in much of your work. Instead of rushing to make sure your work is completed on time, it may be more beneficial for you to take your time and work out the details, even if you have to turn something in late.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Have you been ignoring your family lately? Even though you may not have noticed, they have, and it is very important to contact them soon and make up for lost time. If you do not remedy this problem soon, you may hurt someone's feelings deeply, and it will be very difficult to regain this person's trust.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

If you find yourself in a situation soon where someone whom you hardly know is offering their help or assistance, it is a wise idea to accept it and put your pride aside for the time being. This person will present you with things you had not considered previously, and you will benefit greatly from him/her.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Before opening your mouth in an argumentative situation, consider how your words will be perceived by others. You have the potential to offend others with your strong beliefs and convictions, even though you are only speaking your mind. Friendships are more important than arguments, so act accordingly.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Working with others will be very beneficial for you right now, and even though you usually have the desire to do things independently, you will be more successful if you combine your ideas with those of your friends. They will open your mind to many new ideas.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If you've been partying a lot lately, you may soon discover that your lifestyle is having a negative impact on those things which you value the most. Now is the time for a serious self-evaluation, because letting this go on too long could be disastrous in the near future. Don't be afraid to let go of what you've always done.

Upcoming Holidays

FEBRUARY

- 5 Primrose Day
- 19 Butter Festival begins (China)
- National Chocolate Mint Day
- 20 National Cherry Pie Day
- St. Wulfric's Day
- 21 St. Peter Damian's Day (patron against headaches)
- National Sticky Bun Day
- 22 National Margarita Day
- 23 National Banana Bread Day
- Feast of the Incappucciati (Italy)
- 24 Mexican Independence Proclamation Day
- Flag Day (Mexico)
- National Tortilla Chip Day
- 25 Ash Wednesday
- International Clam Chowder Festival
- 26 National Pistachio Day
- 27 National Kahlua Day
- 28 Floral Design Day
- National Chocolate Soufflé Day
- Kalevala Day (Finland)
- 29 Leap Year Day

Courtesy of www.web-holidays.com

Top 15 Unanswered Questions in Life

1. Could it be that all those trick-or-treaters wearing sheets aren't going as ghosts but as mattresses?
2. If a mute swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
3. Is there another word for synonym?
4. Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?
5. If the "black box" flight recorder is never damaged during a plane crash, why isn't the whole airplane made out of that stuff?
6. If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
7. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
8. Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
9. If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
10. Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?
11. How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?
12. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
13. If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too?
14. If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
15. Whose cruel idea was it for the word "Lisp" to have an "S" in it?

Courtesy of <http://www.ebaumsworld.com/lquestions.shtml>

“False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.”  
-Plato

ATTENTION STUDENTS:  
Do you have an original poem, short story, or other creative expression that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at [swh4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:swh4014@saintjoe.edu) to submit your work.

SJC Poet's Corner

Emptiness

She tears her heart up  
Into a million little pieces  
So no one can read what it says.  
As she wipes a tear from her cheek  
She sweeps the pieces into the trash,  
And with a single casual movement  
Empties the trash out the door.  
She returns then to her room  
Empty at heart and empty at mind,  
But somehow feeling satisfied,  
For with her heart, she left her guilt;  
The trash now holds her shame, her love, her fear.  
And as long as she keeps her heart empty  
She knows she will be okay.

-Sandra Wood

The Blessing

Thank you Lord  
for giving me this love.  
I think it is better  
than heaven above.  
For she is perfect  
a fit for me.  
Forever in your name  
we shall be.  
Amen

-Kyle Bender

A Plea to All Students

I've written the emails,  
I've asked them many times  
To send in a poem,  
Who cares if it rhymes?

But nobody answers  
I'm left with nothing  
Won't somebody hear me  
And give me a ring?

I know that you're out there  
I've heard what you write  
Now stand up, come forward  
And see the light!

I'm writing this poem  
To show you with what ease  
It is to write verse,  
It can be about whatever you please!

So go grab a notebook  
And pull out your rhymes,  
I expect to see much more poetry  
In my Inbox next time!

-Sandra Wood

Waning Mirth  
—for Meghan

I am the little girl  
Sitting by the window  
In her room  
All alone  
Looking out  
Into the sparkling magic  
That is summer's eve  
Wanting to dance  
Among the twilight  
With fairies and elves  
And imaginary friends  
Needing to be  
To live, to exist  
To run and play  
And lift her arms  
Above her head  
And squeal with delight  
Not just sit  
And think and wonder  
What it would be like  
To know the true bliss  
That is youth

-Sarah Zak

Want to see your poetry in print? Submit your original work of poetry to Sandra Wood at [swh4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:swh4014@saintjoe.edu)!!